



BLANDFORD

Hampden County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

Blandford is situated in the eastern foothills of the Green Mountains and is criss-crossed by streams. It is a rural hill town on the historic western corridor between Connecticut and the Housatonic Valley and is on an early route of travel from Springfield to Albany. This was an important military highway from New York during the revolution as is testified by the number of taverns that were recorded on the post road servicing travellers. The town was originally cut up into lots and sold to Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who immigrated from Hopkinton and created an agricultural and grazing based economy. There were some early tanneries, paper and card board mills, but the major emphasis in the 19th century was dairy farming. Blandford led the county in cheese production in 1845 and then again 1870 and despite becoming a favored summer resort for Springfield and Westfield families, has remained in modern times a community of dairy farms and orchards.

The town has retained a cluster of notable buildings in the center, including a handsome Greek revival church, and residents are proud of the historic character of the center. Development pressures in modern times come from those creating recreational or suburban homes.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Chester on the north, Huntington on the northeast, Russell on the east, Granville and Tolland on the south, and Otis and Becket on the west. Blandford is 21 miles west of Springfield, 32 miles southeast of Pittsfield, 110 miles southwest of Boston, and 163 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 53.56 sq. miles

Land Area: 51.75 sq. miles

Population: 1,187

Density: 23 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Knightville Dam Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.7°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Blandford, Otis, West Granville, Woronoco, Becket, Chester

Regional Planning Agency

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 848-2782

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1741

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	743		
Democrats	79	10.6	%
Republicans	165	22.2	%
Other parties	4	0.5	%
Unenrolled Voters	495	66.6	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Blandford town, Hampden County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,214	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,214	100.0
Male.....	607	50.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	4	0.3
Female.....	607	50.0	Mexican.....	1	0.1
Under 5 years.....	69	5.7	Puerto Rican.....	3	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	67	5.5	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	94	7.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	-	-
15 to 19 years.....	89	7.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,210	99.7
20 to 24 years.....	54	4.4	White alone.....	1,195	98.4
25 to 34 years.....	126	10.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	212	17.5	Total population.....	1,214	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	260	21.4	In households.....	1,214	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	82	6.8	Householder.....	456	37.6
60 to 64 years.....	44	3.6	Spouse.....	298	24.5
65 to 74 years.....	60	4.9	Child.....	380	31.3
75 to 84 years.....	49	4.0	Own child under 18 years.....	274	22.6
85 years and over.....	8	0.7	Other relatives.....	34	2.8
Median age (years).....	40.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	14	1.2
18 years and over.....	921	75.9	Nonrelatives.....	46	3.8
Male.....	456	37.6	Unmarried partner.....	26	2.1
Female.....	465	38.3	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	884	72.8	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	143	11.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	117	9.6	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	57	4.7	Total households.....	456	100.0
Female.....	60	4.9	Family households (families).....	350	76.8
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	152	33.3
One race.....	1,210	99.7	Married-couple family.....	298	65.4
White.....	1,199	98.8	With own children under 18 years.....	127	27.9
Black or African American.....	6	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	29	6.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	2	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	11	2.4
Asian.....	3	0.2	Nonfamily households.....	106	23.2
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	89	19.5
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	30	6.6
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	163	35.7
Japanese.....	3	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	89	19.5
Korean.....	-	-	Average household size.....	2.66	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.03	(X)
Other Asian ¹	-	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	526	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	456	86.7
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	70	13.3
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	54	10.3
Some other race.....	-	-	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.0	(X)
Two or more races.....	4	0.3	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	456	100.0
White.....	1,203	99.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	406	89.0
Black or African American.....	7	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	50	11.0
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.66	(X)
Asian.....	3	0.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.70	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	-	-			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Public roads and highways in the area are generally in good condition and meet the demands of modern transportation. Blandford has easy access to the airport and rail facilities of the Pioneer Valley Region, due to its location along the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 23 and the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90), with an interchange in nearby Westfield.

Rail

There is no freight or passenger rail service in Blandford, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

Blandford is not affiliated with any regional transit authority.

Other

Barnes Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 5,000' x 100' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.